present *Response* to the Official Action mailed November 2, 2006. Further, regarding U.S. Patent No. 6,700,096 cited on page 2 of 2, Examiner Chambliss could not recall why he crossed-through the citation; however, he agreed that it may have been due to the fact that we also cited related U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0236772. It is also noted that the '096 patent is the basis of the alleged anticipation rejection and, as such, has been considered by the Examiner. Agreement was reached that Examiner Chambliss would re-initial the Form 1449 without crossing through the citation of the '096 patent in the future. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner re-initial a clean copy of the Form 1449 from the IDS filed August 17, 2006, in accordance with the agreement reached in the telephone conference of December 8, 2006.

Claims 1-18 and 29-46 are pending in the present application, of which claims 1, 7, 13, 29, 35 and 41 are independent. The Applicant notes with appreciation the allowance of claims 7-18 and 35-40 and the indication of the allowability of claims 5, 6, 33 and 34 (pages 5-6, Paper No. 20061030). For the reasons set forth in detail below, all claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Paragraphs 1 and 5 of the Official Action continue to reject claims 1-4 and 29-32 as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,700,096 to Yamazaki. The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection because the Official Action has not established an anticipation rejection.

As stated in MPEP § 2131, to establish an anticipation rejection, each and every element as set forth in the claim must be described either expressly or inherently in a single prior art reference. Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987).

The Applicant respectfully submits that an anticipation rejection cannot be maintained against the independent claims of the present application. Independent claims 1 and 29 recite that a pulse width of a first pulse laser beam and a pulse width of

a second pulse laser beam are different from each other. For the reasons provided below, the Applicant respectfully submits that Yamazaki does not teach the above-referenced features of the present invention, either explicitly or inherently.

The Official Action asserts that Yamazaki teaches "irradiating an amorphous semiconductor film (i.e. subject) formed over a substrate with a first pulse laser beam (i.e. YAG laser) and a second pulse laser beam (i.e. [YVO_4] laser)" and that "the pulse [width] of the first pulse laser beam and a pulse width of the second pulse laser beam [are] different from each other" (page 4, Paper No. 20061030). The Applicant respectfully disagrees and traverses the assertion in the Official Action.

The assertion in the Official Action is contrary to the teachings of Yamazaki. Specifically, Yamazaki teaches that "all of the laser oscillation apparatuses use the same laser" (column 4, lines 59-65; emphasis added). The Official Action has not provided support from Yamazaki that teaches that a first pulse laser beam should be a YAG laser and that a second pulse laser beam should be a YVO_4 laser, as asserted in the Official Action.

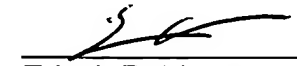
Also, the discussion in the "Response to Arguments" section and much of the discussion in paragraph 5 of the Official Action relates to a wavelength of a laser beam, but not to a pulse width of a laser beam. In fact, the only teaching of a "pulse width" in Yamazaki is found at column 5, lines 48-51, which states that the pulse width of a XeCl excimer laser is 30 ns. The Official Action has not demonstrated that Yamazaki teaches that a pulse width should differ for first and second laser beams.

Therefore, the Applicant respectfully submits that Yamazaki does not teach that a pulse width of a first pulse laser beam and a pulse width of a second pulse laser beam are different from each other, either explicitly or inherently.

Since Yamazaki does not teach all the elements of the independent claims, either explicitly or inherently, an anticipation rejection cannot be maintained. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 are in order and respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



Eric J. Robinson
Reg. No. 38,285

Robinson Intellectual Property Law Office, P.C.
PMB 955
21010 Southbank Street
Potomac Falls, Virginia 20165
(571) 434-6789